

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, with utmost respect, I fail to understand how the hon. Member considers my reply to be evasive. Sir, the question says, and I am sure, he means, when he refers to a district, when he says that more than a third of Indian districts, the entire district. Sir, the actual answer to the question is this. There are more than 600 districts, and there are more than 16 lakh habitations in the country. So, it could be that in a particular district only one village may be affected. So, I am sure, Sir, the entire House would not like to treat that entire district as to be affected by it. Therefore, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the actual way of assessing it is number of habitations. Sir, a habitation means not just the villages. A habitation means a group of 20 houses or a population of 100 people. Going by that criteria, Sir, from 16,58,000 habitations in the country, the habitations affected are about 11 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, please. Put it very quickly because we have very little time.

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Sir, my second supplementary is this. It is said that, at present, 85 per cent of the rural drinking water comes from groundwater sources. But, everybody knows the fact that today there is a shortage of drinking water all over the country. Now, the water is supplied to all these segments, as the hon. Minister has mentioned, by water tankers. There are no permanent sources of drinking water available in the rural areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the efforts being made by the Government to provide pure drinkable water to all the villages and habitats.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, actually it is the responsibility of the State Governments and the local bodies to make arrangements for supply of water there. But, if you were to ask me the statistics, I can provide that; the dependence on the ground water is more than what he, in fact, feels. But, the Department of Rural Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development also undertakes and provides good bit of assistance from the Government of India to various State Governments for the purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Airport near borders

*488. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than one airport has been constructed in Tibet near our borders with the help of China;
- (b) if so, in what manner it would hamper our security; and
- (c) whether this matter has been brought up before Government of Tibet and China in detail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) Government is aware that China is developing the infrastructure in the border regions opposite India in Tibet including airport facilities at Lhasa, Qamdo, Nyingchi, Ngari and Xigaze. Government is giving careful and special attention to the development of infrastructure in the border areas opposite China, in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and also to facilitate the economic development of these areas, in the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

District Disability Rehabilitation Centre

*489. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC);
- (b) whether District Disability Rehabilitation Scheme is under revision;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the measures taken to strengthen DDRCs;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to open DDRCs in each district to solve the problems of the disabled persons expeditiously; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to provide rehabilitative support to persons with disabilities through:

- Survey and identification of persons with disability;
- Awareness Generation for encouraging and enhancing prevention of disabilities, early detection and intervention, etc;
- Assessment of need of assistive devices, ³²provision/fitment & repair of assistive devices & follow up;